30

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF BOOKS

VOL. 2
NO. 2

967

NEWSMAN

IN THIS ISSUE

Space Consideration and the Reporter

Politicians and Pressmen

Fleet Street Reporter

Govt. Should not become advt. agents

and other interesting features

October 1959

25 Naye Paise

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

CONTENTS

PAGE

Our anniversary 1

Ceylon Press Gag 2

Space consideration and the Reporter— M. Bhaktavatsalam 4

Politicians and Pressmen— Critiç 5

Economy of Newspaper Production — 6

Government and Advertising agents – C.P. Ramaswami Iyer 7

Publish evidence before Press Commission C.P. Ramaswami Iyer 8

Fleet Street Reporter — Michael Anderson 9

Press freedom in Singapore 11

Parliamentary Privilege and Press 12

C. P. U.-Champion of the Press —Rob Mansfield 15

The Guild does not hold itself responsible for opinions and statements advanced in the articles published herein.

EDITORIAL BOARD

R. Narasimhan; C. Rajagopalan; N. Ramachandran; V. Ramakrishna Iyer; P. Parthasarathy; R. Muthuswami; R. K. K. Menon; M. Namasivayam; R. V. S. Mani; B. S. Padmanabhan; G. N. Srinivasan; P. K. Gupta;

NEWSMAN

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

Volume II | SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 1959 | Number 2

Our anniversary—the first of the NEWSMAN, and the second of the Madras Reporters' Guild—was celebrated at a simple, yet pleasant function on October 1, and on Gandhi-Jayanthi eve, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, our Home Minister, who presided, delivered a thought-provoking address.

How few among the members of the public who daily read with avidity the pages of their favourite daily realise the feverish, yet practised haste with which craftsmen—yes, craftsmen—of various sorts, labour against the clock to bring the same to the news stalls and the homes of the readers themselves at the accustomed time throughout the year! The reporters who are the eyes and the ears of their respective papers belong to these craftsmen, though they may not wear over-all's or sport beards.

Take a political meeting, a big scout rally, a trade union conference, a sports meet, or a cricket match, or just a demonstration, or welcome at the Air Port or railway station-or, even something catastrophic or grave like the Godavari flood, a great earthquake, a railway disaster, or continued drought with the consequential withering of crops and the creation of dust-bowls: who do you think is ultimately responsible for getting the story—may be just a few lines or columns and columns of printed matter?

Who? It is the reporter, who until yesterday, was ill-paid, except in some of the great national dailies (all glory to them.) and worked—in the smaller papers—round the clock practically. The reporter it is who gets the story, types it and presents it to his paper. May be others touch, trim and handle his story, beginning with the sub-editor and passing through other hands until it finally reaches its due place in the paper. But, it is he who is responsible for ferretting out a story and getting it into the requisite shape. He is the bee that gathers the honey.

The politician or statesman or the learned man of science may not realise the hardships under which the reporter works. Little do they realise how a smile or a kind word or a little thought often cheers up the Reporter. There are grand exceptions amongst the great ones of the country who are indeed kind to the knight of the pencil.

Yes, the Reporter is a modern knight, may be, not one who tilts against wind-mills, but he must surely be one whose soul must passionately revolt against all injustice, against all wrong-doing. May be, it is little that he may be able to do, but ultimately, he must be able to tap out a skilful story, exposing the black marketeer and the wrong-doer—of course, with all the necessary care in the world, so as to be within the law.

Now some such thoughts must have surely struck Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, as he spoke to us in quiet, grave tones that night The seasoned politician that he is, the campaigner of many causes, he surely knows how the pressman helped the congress politicians of an older day by reporting with verve their speeches, and braving the authorities and the censors (during the War period) as also the law in that process. Old timers surely can recall how in those far-off days of 20 and 30 years ago the reporters risked receiving blows or bullets or even getting themselves or their papers into trouble. Yet were those old timers-men like the late Vanchinatha Aiyar or Neelakanta Aiyar—ever troubled? They carried on blithely like heroes and produced reports, some of them positively brilliant and thus helping the patriotic endeavour. If great men like Mahatma Gandhi, Patel, Rajaji, or Tagore, Raman or Visweswarayya are nation-builders, surely that little man, the unknown reporter was also helper in his own way, for he helped to chronicle the deeds, the sayings and the actions of these mighty men, and thus enshrined them for posterity.

Presiding over our anniversary celebrations on October 1, at Woodlands Hotel, Mylapore, Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister, spoke with understanding of the difficulties confronting the hard-working reporter. He advised men in the public eye, especially those who make speeches at meetings, not to be wroth with the reporter if they found that they were not reported fully—as they expected.

The Home Minister paid handsome tributes to pressmen, saying that the best reporting was to be seen down South. He went on to describe how various factors had to be reckoned with by the reporter like the importance of the occasion or of the speaker or the actual worth of the news itself, and he strove to point out that these

JL
M211,N58NN
144215

should be taken note of by disappointed speakers ere they proceeded to pour their wrath on the poor reporter.

He also said that the displaying of the news—the headlines etc.—was done by another hand, the sub-editor, and sometimes, the latter was so carried away by his own enthusiasm that he would not pause to consider whether the headline squared up with the matter inside. We think it will be permissible to point out that the sub-editor, who is unseen so far as the public is concerned, is a hard worker, to say the least, and has also to take into consideration such factors as the paper's policy on any particular subject, or its methods of displaying news. Thus some newspapers, including the best amongst them, are sober in their presentation, and a few also use under-statement deliberately on the model of certain leading British dailies. On the other hand, some other papers believe in bright presentation of news and views, and then indeed the headlines become very forceful—with resultant embarassment to the big man concerned.

The Minister said that a fair report must be made of a speech. A good and just suggestion, but there is a certain thing which has to be taken note of in regard to this, and that is the pressure on newspaper space these days. Gone are the spacious days of old when one had only to speak, and lo! it was all set down dutifully the next day (of course there were no morning papers in this part of the country in the good old days). But now some speakers, as the Minister pointed out, are reported extensively, while others are reported but briefly. There are still others, may we add, who are not reported at all! Thus, in a City like Madras, scores of meetings are held every day, but it is humanly possible to cover only a few of these, and the reports of these are governed necessarily by various factors as detailed above. A person may speak for an hour and may get only a line or two, or be just included in the list of speakers who also spoke at the meeting. On the other hand, an eminent person, say the Vice-President of India Dr. Radhakrishnan, may speak only for three or five minutes, but all that he says or nearly all of it, may be reported. These are all, it is true, but matters which are well-known to every pressman, but what the Minister said in regard to this subject should be noted by persons who speak at public meetings-as also the members of the public.

Along with the full report of Mr. Bhaktavatsalam's speech, we publish also an article from the pen of a senior journalist, who was among the invitees at our anniversary celebration. He points out how the reporter is primarily concerned with getting the news and getting it across to the public. The press does exist for the benefit of the public alone, he stresses unequivocally.

Mr. Bhaktavatsalam regretted that the reporter who gives publicity to others does not get it himself. Yes, it is so, and on the whole, we must acknowledge that it is a good thing that the reporter remains incognito. There are of course, exceptions like staff correspondents, special correspondents and still others who get a by-

---

United action of papers and global public opinion removed Ceylon Press gag

The Ceylon Press was subjectd to a comprehensive news censorship for a fortnight following the assassination of Prime Minister Bandaranaike in October 1959.

The gagging regulations, which evoked world-wide protest, were lifted on October 20 by the Government due to pressure from within its own ranks and global public opinion.

The imposition of emergency regulations on the Ceylon Press by the new Prime Minister Mr. Dahanayake, was described by the Commonwealth Press Union as "without precedent in the history of the Commonwealth". The C.P.U.council said in a resolution that it involved such a denial of the fundmental rights of the people as no emergnecy could justify.

The International Press Institute cabled to authorities in Ceylon to abandon or modify the regulations which in its opinion, had the "effect of isolating Ceylon from the world". The I.P.I Chairman Mr. U.R.S. Schwarz in cable, expressed the deep concern felt by the free press of the world about what he called "the draconian censorship" imposed on the Press and foreign correspondents in Ceylon. He said that complete black-out of news on cabinet decions, Government business, statements by Ministers and the opposition alike and the muzzling of press comment were agrave disservice to the people to the cause of democracy and to the reputation of Ceylon.

The Guardian in an editorial called the censorship as pernicious. While thus the world opinion against the censorship was making itself felt, inside the Island the newspapers lodged silent but effective protest by imposing their own form of censorship on Government news and leaving their editorial columns blank. Day after day the newspapers came out without editorials and the blank editorial column is reported to have had a salutary effect. The local newspapers also decided to boycott Government Press conferences and Government communiques.

Further, for the first time probably in the history of Ceylon journalism editors of all national newspapers took a common line of action in lodging a strongly worded protest note to the Prime Minister. They said that imposition of press censorship was unwarranted, undemocratic and unprecedented. Gagging the press at a time like this on a ruthless scale was never attempted by the British even in the darkest days of the world war, the protest note said and added that in effect the censorship prevented the public from knowing the truth and would therefore serve to enlarge the volume of public suspicion, doubt and controversy. Editors and proprietors of national newspapers also met the Prime Minister on his invitation and represented their view-point.

Finally on October 20 the Government Parliamentary Group met when several MPs pleaded for removing the Press gag. According to the "Ceylon Observer" nearly every member of the Government Group spoke against the censorship. The meeting then unanimously decided to lift the censorship.

line. But, generally speaking, anonymity is the badge of the reporter. The ordinary reporter, apart from those specialising in a particular line, say sports, covers a wide scope of activities. The same reporter may one day report just an ordinary meeting, the report of which may finally not even see the light of day, and on another, he may very well cover the proceedings in a sensational trial, or give the news of a notable arrest, which will get extensive coverage in the paper. The ideal reporter should not be too well known. The big man or people in authority must however know him by sight. Only in such a case, can he write frankly: this is the view expressed by some old-timers.

The Editorial Board and the executive of the Guild thank one and all, our readers, and friends and well-wishers who co-operated with us in the past year, and as we pass on into the second year of our magazine (and the third of our Guild), we hope that the same support and co-operation we received right till now, will be extended to us in the coming year also. As we conclude, we raise our hand in greeting and homage to the unknown reporter of yesterday, today and tomorrow. And may he get a better deal in the future!

Space considerations and the Reporter

—Minister's elucidation

Minister's speech

Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minister, said: "This is indeed a very rare pleasure that you have offered me by enabling me to be in your midst this evening. You are all good old friends with whom we do come into contact every day. But this is indeed a rare opportunity to meet you all together at this gathering and to enjoy your very kind hospitality. I am rather surprised to see that this is only the second anniversary of your Guild. But reporters of Madras and reporting in Madras have indeed been very old and they have secured a very high reputation not only in this country, but even outside in the world. However, I should congratulate you on your thought to have a Guild of the reporters and I should particularly congratulate you on the very successful manner in which you have started and conducted your *Newsman* during the last one year.

People want news

On behalf of the reading public, I do venture to tell you that we are interested more in the news that is presented by you through the newspapers rather than the views that are presented in the same newspaper by certain others of your affinity. It is not because you are here that I mention this. You will realise that this is a hard fact and you are all keen reporters and you must have already known it. People do not care much for views. People are intelligent enough. They have got the political acumen. Not only the people in the City, not only the English-knowing public, but even the non-English knowing public—if I can say so—have political acumen. They form their own views and therefore they are not very much interested in reading views. But they are certainly interested in the news, And I have seen sometimes people in the remote villages going through the newspapers so thoroughly from top to bottom. Sometimes men like us are unable to answer the searching questions put by them on the news they have read in the morning newspapers. Of course, views that are expressed do depend for their importance on those who express the views. It is rather impracticable to expect a purely objective outlook on the part of those who express views. They cannot altogether conceal their own views. But regarding the news it can be quite objective and that too with the reputation that you have secured and that you have been enjoying. We do want to know all the various things that happen around us in this country and outside in the world. Events are happening so rapidly and sometimes they march so fast, but still we are so anxious to follow the events and we do look to you—to your good offices to get at the various things that are happening all around us in which we are quite interested.

Apart from the news that you present, you are also good enough if some of us happen to be making speeches, in the public and you do portray our speeches. I used to feel that reporting one's speech is like photography. Sometimes you look fairer in the photo than you actually are. Sometimes, you look ugly, although you are not at all and no body would agree that you are ugly. But still the photo of yours in certain circumstances looks ugly though you do not look like that. So it is possible to be so both ways. No body could charge the photographer that he has intentionally made the photo look ugly. Of course, if the photo looks better than what you are, that is no doubt to the credit of the photographer. In the same way, sometimes, one's speeches read better when you put it in print. Sometimes, it is distorted also. If it is distorted sometimes, I do admit that the distortion is not intentional.

Best reporting in Madras

It is very hard task, to report so many speeches. Each speaker has his own mannerism. Even very good reputed speakers have their own mannerism. But it still redounds to your credit, and to your reputation, that reporting in Madras by you, the members of the Reportors Guild, has been

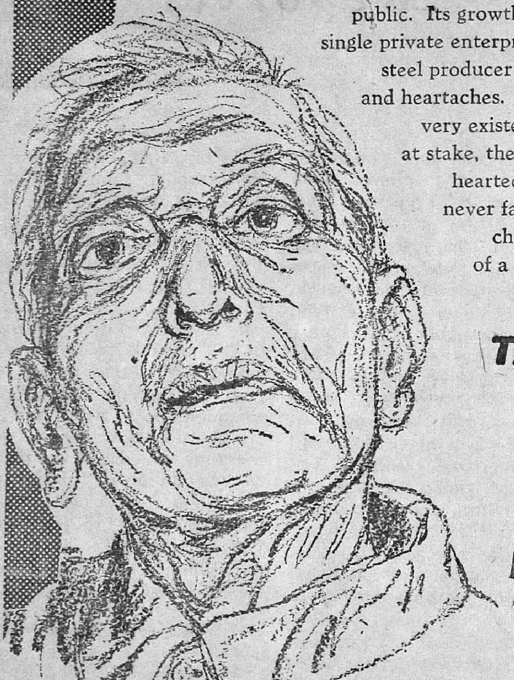
Continued on page 13

men of faith

"From early morning till late at night the Tata offices in Bombay were besieged by an eager crowd of investors. Old and young, rich and poor, men and women, they came offering their mites ; and, at the end of three weeks, the entire capital required for the construction requirements, £ 1,630,000 (over Rs. 2 crores), was secured, every penny contributed by some 8,000 Indians."

—Axel Sahlin

India's first venture into heavy industry, The Tata Iron & Steel Company, was thus launched on 26th August, 1907, with overwhelming support from investors and the public. Its growth into the country's largest single private enterprise and the principal steel producer was not without struggles and heartaches. In the 1920's when the very existence of the Company was at stake, there were many stout-hearted investors whose faith never faltered, and who cheerfully accepted the risks of a pioneering enterprise.



TATA STEEL

79-year old Mr. Rash Behari Law of 13-B Cornwallis Street, Calcutta-6, one of the first shareholders, who still holds stock in the Company.

TN 3726

The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

Politicians and Pressmen

By "Critic"

There is so wide a gulf between what politicians expect from the Press and what pressmen expect from politicians that it is not surprising that even Mr. Nehru has recently made some critical statements on the Press and received some sharp replies from newspapers. Even in so sober an environment as Madras the misunderstanding exists. For example, addressing the annual meeting of the Reporters Guild on October 1, Mr. Bhaktavatsalam made some remarks which show that even so genial and friendly a politician as the Home Minister carries with him a mistaken notion about the functions of the reporter and the newspaper he represents. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam said that while the views of a journal could not be expected to be objective the news reported should be objective. He said that reporting a speech was like taking a photograph. If the picture turned out to be somewhat distorted it was not always the fault of the photographer. And there was always the sub-editor who might have prejudices of his own when it came to editing the news and writing the headline.

Not a shorthand writer

It is quite clear from these remarks that the Minister's view of what the reporter should do and the newspaper man's idea of what a reporter should do, are poles apart. The press reporter's job is surely not that of an ordinary shorthand reporter, although both these gentlemen are called "reporters". The press reporter is a journalist whose primary job is to report the *news*. If a Minister speaks for two hours about irrigation and mentions in some part of the address a new canal to be built, it is this item that the reporter fastens on. He may summarise the rest of the talk or even omit it. The public already knows the pattern of irrigation in the country and what has been said before about it. But any new improvement is of vital importance to it and if the reporter does not bring this item to the top or the sub-editor does not headline it, then they are not doing the job for which they are paid. No doubt the politician is disappointed that his careful survey has been drastically cut and that one rather small item has been "featured". Accuracy, of course, is important and the reporter may even use the exact words of the speaker. If the sub-editor thinks that the words will not be clearly understood as they stand, he may alter them, though he should not give a wrong impression. But both the reporter and the sub-editor have the common aim to tell the reader about something new in the world—whether it be flood or fire or a new factory or dam to be constructed.

If we are to ask the question why it is that there is this difference of approach between the politician and the pressman, the answer must be looked for partly in the history of our press and politics and partly in the interests that the pressman and the politician represent. In the past, in the days of foreign rule, it was somewhat dangerous to alter the words of official spokesman and equally unwise to abbreviate the speeches of opposition nationalists. The penalty in the first case would be official displeasure and the closing of all doors to the Press. In the second case, it was assumed that everything a nationalist said was pure gold and might carry hidden meanings not understood by simple reporters. These inhibitions no longer exist today.

The press exists for the public alone

But the real difference lies in the difference of interest. The politician, if he is in the Government, is anxious to project a portrait of his policies in full before the public. This impression of everything going smoothly is more important to him than a new canal under consideration. If he is in opposition he wants to paint as black a picture as possible for the same reason. But the press does not exist for the benefit of politicians. It exists for the benefit of the public which includes both critics and supporters of the government. The press, moreover, is interested in deeds and events and not in words. The press photographer does not take routine pictures. He takes pictures of new factories, the signing of new agreements, the arrival of notables from foreign lands and so on. But it is not altogether surprising that Mr. Bhaktavatsalam should make the comment he did because the press all over the country still contains a lot of "dead matter"—columns of platitudes or known facts which are reproduced because the speaker is eminent or the occasion is important from the point of view of prestige.

Elimination of "dead wood"

If we, the reporters and sub-editors, were to ask ourselves more often the question "Is this news?", we could cut out half the dead wood that now fills up our columns. It is also time that our politicians develop a sharper sense of what the public is really interested in. The public wants to know what is being done or left undone and politicians would be more popular than they are if they kept this in mind. It is often surprising how much valuable information those in authority hold back, not becasue they want to, but because they do not realise that it is news. If the pressman can elicit this information, he does a service to the politician for which he does not always get full credit.

Mr. N: Rajamani, Special Correspondent of the Press Trust of India in New Delhi died on September 5. Mr. Rajamani, who was 42, had worked as a War Correspondent accredited to the South East Asia Command and the U.S. forces in Burma, during the world war. He had also worked as a representative of the P.T.I in Indonesia, Viet Nam, Bangkok and Iran.

AINEC Urges Healthy Base For Economics of Newspaper Production

The Standing Committee of the All India Newspaper Editors Conference has urged the authorities to make necessary provision in the Third Five Year Plan to ensure that newsprint is made available freely, without import control or licensing or sales tax, at substantially lower rates so that the burden of the cost of newsprint on the economy of a newspaper would be considerably less than it is today.

By a resolution passed at its meeting in New Delhi on October 1, in this connection, the Standing Committee expressed grave concern at the "widening gap between the literate population and newspaper readership." The present situation, it said, was that not more than four percent of the literate public subscribed to daily newspapers. It attributed the "unhealthy position to the fact the newsprint represented over half the cost of producing a newspaper."

"It is only if the economics of newspaper production is given a healthy base that the Press will develop freely as an instrument of democracy, and monopolist and profiteering tendenceies will be curbed and a vast field for the employment of working journalists will be opened" the resolution added.

The Committee also authorised its President to appoint in consultation with the local members of the conference, committees to maintain contact with the Speaker and leaders of parties in the Indian Parliament and State Legislatures concerned to ensure that the rules relating to breach of privilege were not applied in a manner curtailing the freedom of the Press.

A resolution adopted in this respect said that several instances brought to the notice of the Committee from time to time had shown that the provision in the Constitution on the freedom of the Press was not fully respected.

Certain provisions of the Public Security Bill of the Madhya Pradesh Government now under consideration of the legislature of that State were viewed by the AINEC Committee with grave concern. Provisions relating to the control of publication of matters in the Press, banning the entry of newspapers in the State, and preventing discrimination of news were especially disapproved by the Committee which called upon the Government to withdraw the provisions in the Bill that "constitute an attack on the freedom of the Press".

Keskar Calls for Proprietor—Editor--W. Journalist harmony

Addressing the Standing Committee earlier, Dr. B.V. Keskar, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting underlined the need for proper understanding between the three wings of the Press, namely the proprietors, the Editors and the working journalists. The scope and field of the respective bodies representing these three wings—the IENS AINEC and IFWJ—should be settled by discussion and exchange of views among themselves, he felt.

In this context Dr. Keskar thought the position of the AINEC was a little confused and it was not able to play an effective part because its role was not clarified. It would be in the interests of newspaper industry if the position of the AINEC in relation to the other two bodies-IENS and IFWJ was clarified and clearly demarcated.

Mr. Durga Das, President of AINEC, felt the emergence of the three distinct bodies was a healthy development which was similar to that obtaining in other countries where a free Press was considered a pillar of democracy. He called for a proper delineation of the spheres of the three bodies in which the Editor's role would be that of a harmonizer, sometimes of a cushion, between the clashing interests of the other two, besides upholding the freedom of the Press.

See page 12 also

PRINCETON ANNOUNCES JOURNALISM PROGRAM

Princeton University will offer its first course in journalism and public relations in the next academic year.

The announcement follows a two-year study of how the study of journalism could be best integrated into a liberal arts institution.

The study by a special faculty committee outlined these basic principles for guidance of the new programme.

"That the (journalism) profession needs ..young men who have a sound training in liberal studies, with a speciality such as economics, politics, public affairs or natural science;

"That such young men should have been made aware, through their Princeton education, of the 'great current of events in their historical perspective',

"That they should also have had training in the writing of compository prose which would 'emphasize the necessity for lucid definition and apt analogy and would enable them to engage and hold the interest of the public in abtruse subjects."

Seminars will be held under the auspices of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public International Affairs.

It was also announced that Douglas Cater, author and Washington correspondent for *The Reporter* Magazine, will head the new programme.

[U.S.I.S.]

Govt. should not become advertising agents: Sir C. P.

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar who was a member of the Press Commission expressed himself recently in Madras against Government entering "into unfair competition" with advertising agents.

Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar who was the guest-speaker at a meeting of the Advertising Club held on October 24, regarded it as a misfortune that the Government should have taken upon themselves the role of advertising agents.

He added "Government have now become themselves great advertisers of their own plans and policies. That being so, great care is necessary to see that they keep themselves within certain bounds".

Temptations for Small Newspapers

Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar said that he was told that there was an attempt on the part of the Goverment to deal with newspapers on the basis of their being advertising agents themselves more or less. He regarded it as a misfortune because already there were temptations for all newspapers, big and small—particularly the small newspapers. Big newspapers with large circulations of 70,000 and 1,00,000 could afford by reason of their organisation and financial backing and various other considerations to be not too solicitious about Government's views. As for the small newspapers, the temptation to toe the line with the Government was very great.

In this context, he pointed out that many newspapers lived from hand to mouth and that was why the Press Commission had stressed the need for the price-page schedule. He recalled that the Commission found that newspapers with a circulation of 500 or 600 maintained their existence in a very precarious manner. The choice before such newspapers was to please the Government for the time being or starve. That prospect was neither sound nor salutary from the genera journalistic point of view of independence.

Dr Ramaswami Aiyar said that in many countries now, Governments themselves were acting as advertisers. That was an aspect that should be borne in mind, he said and felt that the position of newspapers was going to be extremely difficult viewed from this aspect. The art of advertising was as old as history and the Government now considered it necessary that Government personalities should be advertised day in and day out The time when propaganda or publicity was looked down upon had long since passed.

Chinese Propaganda

In China, for instance, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar continued, propaganda had been reduced to a fine art In factories loudspeakers went on playing music for eight hours and then said finally, "Yesterday so much was produced; unless more is produced today Eisenhower will come or MacMillam will come". That kind of thing was going on repeatedly eight times a day in every school, factory and institution. The result was that this music followed by this propaganda made a tremendous impression.

That was the condition in totalitarian countries. Democratic countries did the same thing in a different way. For instance, in England there was difficulty in getting meat during the war. The "eat more fish" campaign was carried on then, not by fish traders, but by the Government themselves.

'Avoid unfair Competition'

Government, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar said, were great advertisers of Government plans and policies. Advertisement had ceased to be the fringe or embroidery of newspaper activity; it had become the lifeblood of Government activity. That being so, great care was necessary to see that Government kept themselves within certain bounds. In other words, they should not enter into unfair competition with other persons. With the welfare State in the offing, Government publicity and Government advertising were in a new position. People who were pursuing the independent profession of advertising consultants or agencies or individual advertisers had to encounter competition from Government. They were entitled to say that they should have

Objective of crime reporting:

To Prevent and detect crime

Three principles that should govern the handling of crime news by the Press were enunciated by Mr. N. Krishnaswami, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crimes), Madras in a talk with members of the Madras Reporters Guild in September.

Mr. Krishnaswami who is also the Public Relations Officer of the Madras Police was the chief guest at the get-together meeting of the Guild on that occasion.

He gave a detailed background relating to the incidence and pattern of crime in the City and said that the Press could play a vital part in forging the chain of vigilance by the Police and the public.

Feature crime Stories

The three principles he enunciated were: (a) the Press should feature all crime news freely and promptly; (b) crime news should be withheld only in exceptional cases where the public interest requires it; and (c) the extent and manner in which crime news is featured should be such as to promote our common objective—namely, prevention and detection of crime.

He had no doubt that this problem (of crime reporting) would be handled and approached by the newsmen in accordance with the highest standard and traditions of the Madras Press. The Press had the extraordinary capacity of creating and mobilising public opinion, he added.

Mr. R. Narasimhan, Secretary welcomed Mr. Krishnaswami and thanked him for his interesting talk which gave an insight into the way the police fought against crime.

144215
JL

a fair field without any particular favour or disfavour.

Don'ts for Advertising Agents

Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar referred to commercial radios in U.S.A. and Ceylon and said that there was tremendous amount of what might be called vulgar and suggestive advertisements. He also mentioned certain unwholesome features in advertisements in our country. For instance, he said a fellow passed the matriculation examination and was unable to continue his studies here. In the advertising columns his proposed voyage to Chicago, for studies was publicised. That was a thing which was not wholesome advertisement. It made advertisement cheap and vulgar. Similarly, the tremendous craze for getting the pictures of cine actresses published in advertisement columns and representing them as saying that they were using a particular soap. He felt also that there was too much of pornographic advertisements. Dr. Aiyar hoped organisations like the Advertisement Club would take care in trying to publicise goods of manufacturers. They should see to it that advertisers kept up a proper level of giving information, stimulating curiosity and satisfying it.

In this connection, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar recalled that there was a great painter Sir John Millars who suffered financial loss and painted pictures called the BUBBLES—depicting a young child playing soap bubble and under it advertising a particular soap People all over England at that time were tremendously aghast with the way art was being prostituted for commercial purpose. How far they had travelled from that age to this day was a matter for them to judge, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar said.

Need for high Standard

He concluded saying: "Advertisers should have high standard. Or, at all events, have some low standard below which you will not go!" He hoped that their organisation would be able to exert its energies and serve the purpose of journalism and the cause of advertisement which was part of journalism.

At the function held at the Woodlands Hotel in Mylapore, Mr. C. M. Sankaralingam, President of the Club, welcomed the guest and Mr. G. Venkatachary proposed a vote of thanks.

Publish evidence before Press Commission: Sir C. P.'s Call

Dr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar reiterated in Madras on October 24 his oft-repeated demand for the publication by the Central Government of the evidence given before the Press Commission.

Addressing the members of the Advertising Club, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar who was one of the members of the Press Commission said, "It is rather a pity that the evidence is not published. There should be demand for its publication because there are a number of things, which are not well known now, that the public will come to know of if it is published."

He added that he went into the Press Commission as a strong advocate of what might be called editorial supremacy and the right of the editor to control the editorial policy as well as the right of the managing director or managing proprietor to direct what should be the wages of the journalist and others. When he went into the Commission he was fairly convinced that journalism was a gentleman's trade and there was no question of trade unionism there. But the evidence given before the Commission made him come round to the opposite conclusion, with the result that was apparent in the treatment of journalists in the Commission's report.

Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar made these observations while referring to the study undertaken by him on behalf of the Press Commission on the question of influence by advertisers over the editorial policy. He said that an attempt was made by those who gave evidence to show that the advertisers either individually or jointly influenced and were instrumental directly in moulding the editorial policy of a newspaper, the line taken by the paper on various public questions and the attitude to men and matters. Though very little concrete evidence was given, such evidence as was available to them disclosed that whereas in other countries, notably the U.S.A., the great advertising firms were interfering actively in the policy of the newspapers with reference to burning questions of topical interest, the evil was less apparent in England. On behalf of the Press Commission he visited England and spent three months interviewing practically every leading newspaperman and also some of the advertising agencies and great business corporations.

Indian Press not influenced by advertisers

The evidence taken by him in England, Dr. Ramaswami Aiyar said, showed that there was some justification for thinking that great advertisers and business firms had some share in moulding the editorial policy. On return to India, he went into the matter fairly thoroughly here and he came to the definite conclusion—and that had been embodied in the Press Commission report—that the advertising agents and business organisations here had not interfered with editorial policy or the treatment of great questions by the newspapers.

S. African Govt. ban on Editor

The ban imposed by the South African Government on Mr. Ronald Segal, Editor of *Africa South* evoked protest from Indian politicians, editors, writers and publicists., who, in a signed statement recently demanded the withdrawal of the ban.

They said that Segal had been victimised for exercising a. basic democratic right— criticism of Government policies in his journal—and the action of the South African Government could not but shock all those who believed in the freedom of the Press.

The statement also pointed out: "That action has been taken under the Suppression of Communism Act will mislead no one. Segal's journal, *Africa South* is Communist neither in its policies nor in its sponsors who are well known democrats like Eleanor Roosevelt, Alam Patov, Stephen Spender, Jo Girmond, Father Huddleston, Reinhold Neibuhr, and the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The Fleet Street Reporter

By
Michael Anderson
Night News Editor,
"Daily Mirror",
London.

I do not believe there is anywhere else in the world with so much to offer a journalist as London. And to the news reporter, it offers most of all.

News gathering for the so-called evening papers (in fact the first of their eight editions is on the streets well before noon) and the national dailies is such a continuing process that an account of a typical day's work of a reporter in London's Fleet Street—hub of the newspaper world—could equally well start at midnight as at breakfast-time-

The round-the-clock rota of duty shifts for reporters has always existed on the larger news agencies such as Reuter and the Press Association, and most of the national papers now find it essential also to have at least one reporter on a 2 a.m.—9 a.m. shift—poised ready to provide on-the-spot coverage of the big story that can break at any time.

The shift generally the most popular is the main morning one, usually 9 a.m. for evening papers and 10 a.m. for national; so we will examine in detail the reporter of to-day arriving for this particular duty.

He will probably wear a dark City-type suit, because although most of his stories will concern the ordinary men and women he may be called upon at a moment's notice to interview church and the civic dignitaries, cabinet ministers and other prominent figures and he must not be at a disadvantage or stand in awe of them. Our reporter will probably arrive to work in his own car—not that a car is essential—but it ensures a quick getaway on stories.

Advantage in having a car

Having a car at the right place and the right time can mean the difference between the success and failure on a story. I recall one scoop that was pulled off almost entirely because a News Editor circumvented a strict no-parking rule outside the Law Courts in London by arranging for four chauffer-driven cars to drive round and round the block for an hour with a car cruising past the Courts every half minute. When the glamorous society woman who had won a fabulous £20,000 breach of promise action was swept from the precincts on a wave of pressmen and well-wishes it was one of those four limousines in which she gratefully sought sanctuary. The result was an exclusive interview.

Fleet Street — the Mecca of reporting—with its band of reporters noted alike for their mixture of toughness and sensitivity, humility and self-confidence is here presented to us by the author, a member of the staff of "The Daily Mirror", London.

This is the first of a series of articles, in which we hope to highlight reporting in various countries of the world. The article, specially commissioned for the "NEWSMAN" by the British Information Services is a very informative one and gives us a perspective of working conditions, nature of assignments, and the high standards expected of the working journalists in the U. K.

But back to the office with the 10 a.m. reporters. Not for long will they read the papers and talk the inevitable "shop". Most of the day's work is produced by the diary and a lot is routine. Although a good reporter tackles every assignment convinced it will be the lead to the paper his life is not all scoops and catching aircraft to far-away places.

Some typical Assignments

But therein lies the eternal fascination—while you explore the news potential of a handout from the Egg Marketing Board that gloomily says farmers are producing more eggs than the nation can possibly eat—telephoning poultrymen, housewives, grocers for their views—you are happily aware that before the day is out the passport you always carry with you (a strict rule in most offices) may bear yet another visa as you touch down in Vienna, Barcelona or Tangier. Here are a dozen actual assignments from one London News Editor's schedule as they were entered through the day:

Continued on next page

18-Story Building for U.S. Daily

A bright new addition to New York's midtown scene is under construction. It is the modern 18-story annexe being built next to the *New York Daily News'* famed Tower Building.

Both structures are being fully air-conditioned by Worthington Corporation, whose 'engineered climate' is found in such Latin American buildings, as well as elsewhere, as the Casa de Franca in Rio de Janeiro, the Hotel del Turismo in Cucuta, Colombia, and the Hospital de Policia in Lima.

Three Worthington 1,200-ton refrigeration units will supply 7,500 gallons of chilled water every minute to cool the *News* buildings.

The News is the largest circulation newspaper in the United States, with several million readers daily.—*Globe Press Service.*

x x x

Early steps for the establishment of Press Council in India were urged by the Executive Council of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists at its meeting in Poona in October.

The Federation assured the Government full support and assistance in the setting up of the Press Council.

Reporter	Assignment	Area
1. Reporters A, B and C	City shares probe	London Kent. Sussex.
2. Reporter D	Podola trial	Old Bailey.
3. Reporter E	Mario Callas arrives	London Air Port.
4. Reporter F	James swinburn freed from Jail	Cairo.
5. Reporter G	Murderer Donald Hume's girl-friend Trudi	London Airport and Zurich.
6. Reporter H	Memorial service to actress Kay Kendall	London.
7. Reporter I	Mystery couple in drifting dinghy	Folkestone and Dover.
8. Reporter J	Sixteen-years-old Carol falls for leader of the band. aged 40	Bromley, Kent.
9. Reporter K	Murdered Scoutmaster, suspect held	Middlesex.
10. Reporter L	Court decides dog's ownership	London.
11. Reporter J	£100,000 football pools winner	Surrey.
12. Reporter E	Ghana Trade Mission press conference	London.

The last column gives the location of each story and most are self-explanatory. The reporter on Item 5 flew from England to Switzerland on the same aircraft as the murderer's girl friend—his brief to glean as much personal background as possible to be used at the end of the trial. Items 11 and 12 were covered by reporters who had by then completed their earlier stories.

'Working Conditions'

Most shifts are from seven to eight hours long (depending on the time of day), with a 45 minutes meal break. At the end of his tour of duty a reporter on a 'running' story will be relieved by a colleague, or if, as so often happens, this is not practicable he may claim time off at a later date for the extra hours worked. The five-day week (and four weeks holiday with pay) has operated for some years now in Fleet Street. Minimum salary—equal for men and women—is £20 a week on a London evening or daily, plus expenses which are claimed and paid weekly. Most papers pay above the minimum rates.

The standard of reporting demanded is just the highest possible. Each paper has its own characteristic style with which reporters quickly identify themselves.

Personalised Vs. Objective News

The popular and picture papers personalise news — presenting it as it affects living people. The "quality" papers offer it more objectively.

Thus "The Times" will simply announce under a Colombo dateline :

"The Ceylon Cabinet today decided to reduce the tea export duty from Re. 1 to 50 cents and to withdraw export subsidy,"

The "Daily Mirror" of the same day will have :

"Housewives in Britain can look forward to paying 4d. to 8d. a lb. LESS for some brands of tea in six months time as a result of the Ceylon Government's decision yesterday to halve the present export duty of 1s. 6d. a lb. on tea and withdraw the export subsidy".

Sharp-Edged Rivalry

Not only does each paper look at the news and present it according to a particular outlook, readership and policy, but the rivalry that naturally exists between competitive organisations is nowhere so sharp-edged as at news-room level. From this rivalry stem the greatest virtues and vices of our British press. The all-compelling urge to do everything possible to ensure that his is a better story than any of the other papers' versions results in a first class job of work. But it is the very intensity of this rivalry that can itself be responsible for the unthinking things sometimes done by newsman that in turn lead to charges of sensationalism.

Mr. William Deeds, distinguished Parliamentarian and political correspondent of the Daily Telegraph, epitomised this situation when he told a congress of journalists recently, "It is the right and duty of reporters to chase a story to the limit. Where that limit lies is a responsibility they share with news editors, editors and proprietors. It can, we all know, be established in an office without one word in memo form."

The occasional "rogue" reporter who today stoops to offensive and unethical methods of news-getting goes beyond his brief and hazards both his job and the respect of his colleagues. He or she, does not last long.

Gruelling Pace

The pace set in London is always brisk and quite often gruelling. But the Fleet Street reporter cheerfully accepts that the job must come before personal and social life. He needs, too, to keep in good physical shape, for much of his work will entail long hours at top pressure often under the worst possible conditions. Villages in peril from snow, disasters caused by flood, or fire, are front page news that can only be got by enduring the hardships yourself.

Specialisation

While hard news is the first and last love of many reporters there is a wide field of specialist reporting available to him in London as elsewhere. The parliamentary reporters-gallery writers and lobby correspondents-the diplomatic correspondent, the industrial correspondent and the chief crime reporter probably rate highest in prestige - and salaries.

But different papers set different values on their specialists, and of considerable importance are the

reporters who are given overall responsibility for such subjects as science, medicine, television and radio, theatre and films, motoring, the fighting services, aviation, education, religion, animals, agriculture, and shipping. Specialists usually work longer hours than their news colleagues, but the pace is steadier and they can count on a more regular home life.

The way to the Top

How does the top flight Fleet Street news reporter get to the summit ? Nearly always he will have started on a local weekly, graduating from there to a provincial daily or evening and thence to London. His first job here may well be with one of the smaller freelance news agencies that are a feature of London journalism covering courts, airports and particular districts of the Greater London area for the dailies and evenings.

The jobs their staffs are sent on give them a wonderful chance to meet at work and study the methods of the "heavy mob" as the experienced reporters of the nationals are nicknamed Similarly a reporter on the livelier local weekly papers in London and the Home Counties often combines that job with being the accredited correspondent in his area for one or more national papers and awaits his opportunity to try for a staff job with his favourite one.

Don't under-estimate the Women reporters

I have tried to present the London reporter as I know him-and her, for although there are relatively few women reporters, they are second to none in their job—and it is a mistake to let the dainty please-help-little-me approach of some girl members of the "heavy-mob" lull you into forgetting their undoubted ability to "knock you cold" on any story-given half a chance.

To a reporter—that dedicated individualist whose mixture of toughness and sensitivity, humility and self-confidence can only be fully understood by another of his calling—working in London is a constant challenge and perpetual stimulus, a worthwhile job of real responsibility and consuming interest,

Only a regrettable incident

Infringement of Press freedom not imminent in new Singapore regime

Press freedom in Singapore still faces a potential danger, but it appears at present to be less serious than originally feared, according to an International Press Institute report released in September last.

The report was by an Institute observer who made an on-the spot investigation and, on his recommendation, the institute announced two outstanding foreign correspondents stationed in Singapore had been appointed to report any event affecting Press freedom in the area.

The observer, M. Gaspard, a Swiss member of the I. P. I. Secretariat went to Singapore after the Institute's general assembly in Berlin last May passed a resolution expressing deep concern at what it called a threat to the freedom of the Singapore Press.

'Violent threat' — M Gaspard said: This violent threat should be considered in the context of a very heated electoral campaign. On the other hand the Straits Times seems to have over-dramatized the threat.

"When I was in Singapore, the whole affair no longer appeared to be more than a regrettable incident in the electoral campaign which had been exaggerated on both sides. However, the threat has never been withdrawn."

Security ordinance: The potential threat to the Press, M. Gaspard said, was a result of the provisions of the Preservation of Public Safety Ordinance which provided for the preventive detention of a suspect for a period not exceeding two years. The measure also provided for the term. 'suspect' to inculde anyone who published or distributed writings considered dangerous for public order.

M. Gaspard said this threat was of a general nature because it concerned foreign correspondents. But the Government had also shown a certain hostility to the so-called 'foreign controlled' Press in Singapore — in effect, the Straits Times Group. M. Gaspard found, however, that broadly speaking this group was largely locally-owned although formally its control was in foreign hands.

Ethnic communities: On the more general aspect of the threat, M. Gaspard reported, it was important to distinguish between the politico-diplomatic relations between Singapore and Malaya and relations between the ethnic communities of the two countries.

In the first case, a journalist who reports his facts correctly was only doing his duty and should not be impeded in any way. In the second case, the greatest prudence was called for as an irresponsible reporting might provoke riots.

M. Gaspard also said that despite the undoubtedly diffcult situation, since the P.A.P.came into power, there were certain points which had to be put to its credit.

These included its review of the cases of journalists imprisoned or newspapers banned or censored under the previous regime, and the fact that it had so far shown a certain moderation in its attitude to Press matters. "In fact, nothing in the attitude of the new regime leads one to believe that infringement of the freedom of the Press is imminent. Nevertheless, the I.P.I should watch over the situation closely.

The matter was raised by Mr. Hoffman, Editor of the Straits Times after pre-election statements by Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Leader of the people's Action Party and Singapore's present Prime Minister.

Mr. Lee, referring to newspapers which tried to 'sour up' relations between the Federation of Malaya and Singapore said: Any editor or reporter that goes along this line will be taken in under the. Preservation of Public Security Ordinance. We shall put him in and keep him in." (I.P.I.Report)

Commenting on the AINEC resolution regarding Press and parliamentary privilege, the HINDUSTHAN TIMES said in an editorial on October 3:-

Parliamentary privilege: a source of much perplexity to the Press

Parliamentary privilege has many pitfalls for the Press and in India, with numerous legislatures, these can be of unpredictable variety. The proposal that the All India Newspaper Editors Conference should set up liaison committees is probably intended to bring the problem within a predictable compass. These committees it is stated, will maintain contact with Speakers and party leaders in Parliament and the State Legislatures so as to ensure that rules relating to breach of privilege "are not applied in a manner curtailing the freedom of the Press". There is no reason to suppose that Parliament or any State Legislature is unaware of the importance of maintaining the freedom of the Press any more than the Press is unmindful of the need to uphold the prestige of these bodies. It is not over general principles that conflicts are likely to arise but in their interpretation in particular instances. Here, it is doubtful if a committee of the kind proposed can be of much use. Obviously, it cannot set itself up as a mentor or guide to the legislators, Nor, as far as can be seen, can it function effectively as an editors' lobby. Apart from its own interests being directly engaged (which would rule out the role of a mediator) the question it would have to take up would not be one of public policy, which could be considered objectively. It would most often be a case where a particular member feels, and hopes he would be able to make his colleagues feel, personally affronted by something said in the Press. If anything is likely to soften the asperity of their reaction it would be, besides their own good sense, the restraint imposed by public opinion. In the circumstances an editor may probably be of service at his desk more than in any discussions with legislators.

At the same time there is no doubt that the whole subject of parliamentary privilege has been a source of much perplexity to the Press. British parliamentry practice which is followed in India includes under breaches of privilege any act or omission which impedes the House or any of its members or officers in the discharge of their duties or which has a tendency directly or indirectly to produce such results even though there may be no precedent for the offence. The House of Commons has never interpreted these rules literally and a committee of privileges has in fact laid down that they "should not be administered in a way which would fetter or discourage the free expression of opinion or criticism, however prejudiced or exaggerated". But the question is whether in the light of our own experience in the past few years we should continue to rely on British practice. The Press Commission recommended that the subject should be covered by legislation and there is reason to believe that this was also the intention of the framers of the Constitution. This is clear from the wording of Article 105 (3) which leaves it to Parliament to define matters of privilege not covered by it and only "until so defined" makes the British parliamentary practice applicable. Parliament seems inclined to leave things as they are but, in that case, it owes a duty to itself and to the Press to see that the practice it follows is fully in accord with present day British usage and convention.

Libel action against London Daily

A libel action by Mr. John Adeline, aged 40, company director of Chelsea Cloisters, London, against Associated Newspapers Limited in respect of an article in the "Daily Mail" of May 24, 1957, was disposed of in the High Court recently after a public apology and payment to Mr. Adeline of "a substantial sum" as damages,

Mr. Colin Duncan, for Mr. Adeline, told Mr. Justice Gorman that when the article was published there was a certain amount of interest centred on Tangier as two ships had recently been blown up in the harbour. It was suspected that the vessels had been engaged in supplying arms and ammunition to the "Arab Army of Liberation."

Mr. Adeline was then on holiday in Tangier and he contacted a "Daily Mail" reporter there with a view to offering information on the circumstances in which the ships came to be sunk. Mr. Duncan continued:

"Through what can only be described as a most unfortunate misunderstanding, the 'Daily Mail,' in publishing the interview with Mr. Adeline, described him as a former big-time smuggler. As the defendants now fully admit, Mr. Adeline has never in any way been engaged in smuggling."

The defendants recognised that what they published was a serious reflection on Mr. Adeline's character. They had agreed to apologise to him, to pay a substantial sum as damages, and to indemnify him in respect of his costs. In those circumstances now that his reputation had been vindicated, Mr. Adeline was content to accept the defendants' apologies and amends.

Mr. Neville Faulks, Q.C., for the defendants, Associated Newspapers Limited and Hugh Medlicott, associated himself with all Mr. Duncan had said.

About 40 people including severa correspondents and photographers accompanied on October 12 an Austrian journalist to a Vienna prison where he has to serve a four weeks' sentence. He is Herr George Auer, correspondent of the Austrian Communist Party organ *Volksstimme* which had published articles ruled by the court to be libellous and slanderous. The journalists' trade union and other professional organisations irrespective of their political affiliations had strongly protested against the sentence on the ground that it "seriously endangers the freedom of the Press".

Continued page from 3

the best and this has been testified even by distinguished foreigners who come across your work.

But sometimes we look aghast when we have a look at the newspaper particularly when we have spoken the previous night. Your first concern is to see that your news has come in print and if it has come what exactly your speech looks like. Then you look aghast sometimes. It is complete distortion. One gets extremely wild at the reporter. But if one has a little patience and goes into the contents of that report, then one feels a bit relieved. Then one stops cursing the poor reporter. In the report proper there is nothing wrong. But it is the featuring—the headlines for which you, the reporters, are not at all responsible. It is quite the other way some times in some newspapers. There is no connection between the content of the report and the very headline. The headline is somebody else's and they are so anxious, perhaps they are so enthusiastic to print that way that they do not even pause for a while and consider whether the report before them would justify that headline. But just at that moment the speaker gets very wild at the reporter But then he gets reconciled and understands the difficult and onerous task which the reporter has to discharge.

No favouritism

Sometimes I know the speaker gets very wild that his speech was not fully reported or even substantially reported. But what can you do? Most of you, I have no doubt, have no sense of favouritism or prejudices against this or that speaker. It is your lot not only to listen to speeches. Sometimes, it is our lot to listen to all kinds of speeches. But it is not our job to report these things. It is your job not only to listen, but to make a fair report of what is spoken by various persons. You do your best and I have heard compliments by distinguished people not only of this country but also from outside about the manner in which reporting of very important speeches is being done in Madras. But again, the speaker, who is so anxious to have his speech—very important speech as he considers it to be—fully reported, gets a sense of disappointment with the reporter and even wild that his speech is put in only in a few lines.

But you (reporters) have your own difficulties. Even if you seek to do some justice to the poor speaker, your task ends with your submitting the report. Then the Editor of the paper has his own difficulties. Apart from his own prejudices, he has got his own assessment of persons. These assessments vary from person to person—from one eminent editor to another eminent editor. When I mean editor, I mean all the subs (sub-editors) also. But you do not expect the speaker, who is so anxious to be reported well, to realise all that. Therefore, I do hope that you do not get wild at that poor speaker in your turn because he gets angry with you. But on the whole you will agree with me that even disappointed speakers, who nurture a sense of grievance against this or that reporter or reporters as a class, are quite friendly with you and they cannot afford to alienate your sympathy.

In olden days 30 or 40 years ago, I used to hear stories of certain eminent reporters; how certain very ambitious politicians used to employ all the resources to keep themselves in the good books of the eminent reporters. Otherwise, if they arrived at the Central Station, that would not be reported. I used to wonder how certain names of arrivals were published and certain other names were not. Then I found out the secret. One very eminent politician, I had occasion to know, as soon he came, used to send a typed note about his arrival. About certain other politicians, it used to be said they would just manage to keep certain eminent reporters to remain interested in them. These are old stories—and those days are gone.

Very hard working lot

We are in a new age. We are in a democratic age, and you, reporters, do play a very vital role in the evolution of our democracy. You are all journalists, not merely reporters. You are indeed very hard working journalists. If one is a journalist, he has to work and work hard whatever be the sphere of journalistie activity in which he is engaged.

After all one need not feel disappointed, if you are not able, either willingly or unwillingly, to report all that a speaker has said although he thinks that every word he has uttered is vitally important. But, I want the speaker to realise his advantage if he is not fully reported. He can go on repeating his wounderful ideas. That is really a great advantage. If once you fully report a speaker and if that speaker speaks again, he should not commit the error of repeating the same. If you have not reported all his wonderful ideas, there is the advantage that he can afford to repeat with impunity, without being charged that he is indulging in a stereo-typed way. But on the whole I can tell you that every one claims you as his friend. If he could not get all the favours from you in the past, he does look to you for future favours.

Nose for news

One essential quality a reporter should possess is the news scent. You have that in abundance. You have that spirit of inquisitiveness and the spirit of hunting for news. Sometimes in your hunt even if you do not succeed, you have the capacity to create news and sometimes it used to be said that very busy politicians who are themselves conscious that they do not possesss a sufficient sense of discretion, do get afraid of coming across reporters. Because, the fear is that somehow the newspapermen, who are so resourceful, will pump out the news, and therefore, it used to be said that sometimes politicians shun news reporters. I do not think there need be any fear in coming into contact with reporters like you, however resourceful you are. If people come into contact with very resourceful reporters like you, they also get tuned to that. Hence, they need not be afraid of meeting you and consequently being pumped out by you.

There is thus indeed a very happy relationship between the discerning public and reporters like you. But if only the reading public come to know that you are the creators of the news, which they go through every morning and evening with such great interest and enthusiasm—by reading which they got so much educated and enlightened—you will become indeed the heroes of the public. But that is your lot: you give publicity to others, but you do not get publicity, except perhaps for the publicity provided for proceedings like those of tonight of your Guild.

The unknown reporter

You create news, present news, give publicity to so many ambitious persons; but the general public do not know anything about you. But still they have this satisfaction that you are indeed the real educators and teachers of the public. I have no doubt that the reputation you have been enjoying will go up year after year.

This Reporters' Guild should seek to create a new sense of camaraderie, a sense of affinity. The Reporters' Guild is indeed the most important Guild one can think of. And when you meet in the Guild, you can learn so much by way of exchange of ideas and experiences — experience in tackling persons, in scenting news, in gathering and presenting news, and in having the news appreciated by the public. I offer you all my very warm felicitations. I wish you all the best of luck"

At the outset, Mr. V. Ramakrishna Aiyar, a member of the Panel of Chairman said: "The privilege of welcoming you to the second anniversary of the Guild has fallen to me and as one of the members of the panel of chairmen and as perhaps the oldest member of the profession present here, I do so with great pleasure. To a gathering of news men it is superfluous to attempt at any introduction of Mr. Bhaktavatsalam. As a member of the profession I have known him since 1927, when the Congress met at Madras under the distinguished presidency of Dr. Ansari and ever since, there have been frequent contact between us. Suffice it to say that being a journalist himself, Mr. Bhaktavatsalam knows the requirements of the Pres and has been a good source of news and a good friend of the reporters.

I know it is risky to stand between you and a good dinner! But the occasion compels me to say a few words, intended chiefly for the ears of our guests. The Reporters' Guild was founded in April 1957 and represented the result of the reactions of reporters at a subtle attempt to belittle their status in the journalistic world. This is a professional organisation, having the objects of equipping the reporter for his complex functions, strengthening his news sources, defending his professional rights, and maintaining the highest standard in reporting. Thus, the development of the reporter's personality and the advancement of the profession are the two factors which guide the Guild's activities.

Phenomenal but not painless

I may be pardoned if I claim that during the past two years the Guild has made phenomenal progress in several directions. But this progress has not been painless. The Guild had its peculiar teething troubles and other infantile ailments. But thanks to the enthusiasm and co-operative endeavour of the members, the Guild has pulled through these vicissitudes. But its corporate strength suffered a setback when some of our colleagues in the Express group of newspapers were thrown out of employment. On this occasion we remember them and wish them good luck.

It is also my painful duty to mention the great loss the journalistic world has suffered in the passing away of Mr. Kasturi Srinivasan, the talented Editor of The Hindu. He was a supporter of the Guild and his death is a personal loss to us. We also mourn the premature death of Mr. S. Muthuswami of the *NAFEN*. whose genial personality was felt by all at the previous gatherings. May their souls rest in peace!

While our energetic Secretary will shortly treat you to the Guild's activities, I may be permitted to mention that the significant achievement of the Guild during the past year was the publication of the *Newsman*. This magazine has completed one year of useful existence and I believe the first annul number is in your hands. By disseminating information about reporters and reporting the *Newsman* has been attempting to bring reporters and news sources into closer understanding of each other.

This brings me to another important activity of the Guild. It has been arranging a series of get-together meetings with top officials and leaders and experts in all walks of life. Such informal gatherings at which there is a free and frank exchange of views provide reporters with a background knowledge of men and matters and enables them to tackle and present news in the most advantageous manner, It is to be hoped that news sources would realise that newmen never betray the confidence reposed in them and that any news when it becomes publishable takes an impressive form as a result of that confidence and the background knowledge such confidence provide. I cannot conclude this portion of the narrative without expressing our gratitude to your Govt. of which another friend of the journalist, Mr. Kamaraj is the Chief, for placing at the Guild's disposal its present habitation in the Government Estate at a nominal rent.

I have reserved to the last my welcome to Mr. Borron. He has been a good friend of reporters and he considers it a privilege to meet them off and on. A few days back he intimated his desire to meet us at dinner and when we suggeated that he could combine that with the annual gathering he readily agreed. This was an invitation with no strings attached and we were happy to accept it. So here we are with Mr. Borron as our host at this annual gathering.

With these few words I once again welcome you, sir. and all our friends and guests".

The Secretary of the Guild then presented the annual report.

The proceedings concluded with an enjoyable dinner given by Mr. J. A. Borron.

Greater facilities for newsmen

The difficulties experienced by Indian correspondents to visit Pakistan were brought to the notice of Prime Minister Nehru during a Press Conference in Delhi in September.

It was pointed out that the Indian correspondents could not move out of Karachi or Lahore and Pakistan correspondents could not move out of Delhi. Mr. Nehru was asked whether he would consider taking steps for the free flow of the news between India and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister replied that he would be glad if steps were taken in this regard. Any barriers to communications and information should be removed, he felt.

In reply to further questions, Mr. Nehru said there were some kind of rules in regard to people who came to India from Pakistan and Indians visiting Pakistan. India had suggested a general relaxation of these rules. But Pakistan had not agreed to it.

Entirely unofficial and voluntary:

C. P. U., Zealous Watch-dog and Champion of the Press

—*By* **ROB MANSFIELD**

The Commonwealth Press Union (CPU), which represents nearly 600 newspapers, news agencies and periodicals in all parts of the Commonwealth and the colonies, is 50 years old. The golden jubilee was celebrated recently at the annual conference of the Union in London.

As was shown by the array of Ministers and experts who spoke at the sessions, this was an occasion of wide general interest outside the purely journalistic field. Of all the great variety of bodies and associations — professional, scientific and cultural—that further Commonwelath unity and knowledge, few are of such universal importance to the ordinary citizen.

The CPU is typical of such bodies in that it is entirely unofficial and voluntary; that it is based on the democratic and ethical principles that the Commonwealth stands for; and that it deals in a workmanlike way with current matters in its particular competence. Its founder, Sir Harry Britain, now 85 years of age, opened this year's anniversary conference; he is still very active in the Union's affairs.

He conceived the idea in 1907 while on a visit to Canada, with the aim of bringing the peoples of Britain, the Dominions and the colonies closer together and spreading mutual knowledge and understanding. At once he set about a two-year campaign of lobbying newspaper proprietors, editors, Cabinet Ministers, admirals, generals and industrialists with an energy, initiative, and perseverance that might well leave a modern high-powered public relations promoter speechless.

Among his most enthusiastic and generous supporters was Lord Northcliffe. The redoubtable Sir John (later Lord) Fisher, First Sea Lord, agreed to his bland request for a full scale naval review, and provided an 18-mile-long line of warships at Spithead for the benefit of the Empire press. The War office was pressurized into organizing a review and manoeuvres at Aldershot.

> *The CPU, which was 50 years old this summer, holds quinquennial conferences in rotation in the Commonwealth capitals. The next of these is to take place in 1961 in India and Pakistan, with meetings in both Delhi and Karachi.*

First Conference

The first conference of what was until 1946, called the Empire Press Union was held in June 1909. Ninety newspaper proprietors and editors gathered in London to discuss a wide range of topics of common interest, especially communications. They were received by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, and then toured the country, where they were universally feted.

Annual conferences were organized followed by more ambitious quinquennial conferences held in rotation in the Commonwealth capitals. The next of these is to take place in 1961 in India and Pakistan, with meetings in both Delhi and Karachi.

Perhaps the CPU's outstanding single achievement has been the part it played in the introduction by Cable Wireless Ltd., in 1941, of the special penny-a-word rate for press cables within the Commonwealth. Even then, this was a very considerable reduction in the normal cable charges and was a potent inducement to editors to increase their coverage of Commonwealth affairs.

Despite big increases in other cable rates since then, the famous penny-a-word Commonwealth press rate has remained unchanged, g[illegible] to the credit of the Commonw[illegible]nments concerned in the now nationalized cable company. There is, however, stiff resistance by the majority of the world's telegraph administrations against any extension of press facilities to newer forms of communications which newspapers and agencies are using increasingly, namely the inter-continental telephone and Telex services.

Standing Committees

On a far higher level of importance however, is the work of the CPU as a zealous watch-dog and champion of the press. This is the special responsibility of one of the five standing committees in London the Freedom of the Press Committee, the members of which are newspapermen from Britain, India, Pakistan, South Africa Australia, and West Africa. Any infringements in any part of the Commonwealth, such as censorship, suppression of newspapers, arrest or expulsion of journalists, are reported to this committee.

The Reporting Facilities Committee is also active on matters of day-to-day concern to newspaper correspondents in the collection of news. Typical of its work are discussions which have been held with Government departments and the Queen's Press Secretary to improve the existing arrangements on embargoed news releases. Another committee, has been preparing schemes for the training and education of journalists and for "travel fellowships" which are to be launched this autumn. There is also a telecommunications committee which represents the interests of the press in a field of rapid technical development.

This year's conference was attended by a fully representative gathering of 90 delegates. They met Mr. Harold Macmillan the United Kingdom Prime Minister, and were addressed by Britain's Minister of Labour and by the Colonial Secretary. Other speakers on general and technical subjects were leading British newspaper editors, public relations experts from Government departments and industry, and senior television executives.

—B. I. S.

The following message from the Ceylon High Commissioner in India, Sir Richard Aluwihare was received too late for publication in the annual:—

I wish the Guild every success in its efforts to safeguard the interests of its own members who are the mainstay of the Press in India. Reporters and Correspondents have an important and essential duty to discharge to their employers in both reporting and collecting news which reflects the general views of the different sections of society which comprise the nation. There is scarcely anyone who is literate and does not read a newspaper either in the English language or in one of the indigenous languages of the country and it is through these dailies and other publications such as magazines that members of the public are able to follow national as well as world problems. It is, therefore, most important that owners of newspapers, reporters and correspondents should work in harmony and understanding if they are to achieve the high objects they have in view.

I wish the Guild every success in its future programme.

Richard Aluwihare

NEWSMAN

The Journal of the Madras Reporters Guild.

Circulated among a distinguished readership comprising Heads of States, Union and State Ministers, Top Officials, Foreign Embassies in India; V. I. Ps.; Journalists and Journalists' Organisations in India and abroad.

Published Monthly

For particlars please contact :

The Secretary,
MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD,
GOVERNMENT ESTATE,
Mount Road, Madras-2.

ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

CASUAL :

Full page	...	Rs.	75.00
Half page	...	Rs.	40.00
Quarter page	...	Rs.	25.00
Front cover inside	...	Rs.	100.00
Back cover inside	...	Rs.	100.00
Last cover (black & one colour)	...	Rs.	125.00

CONTRACT :

Reduction of 10% of the casual rate for three or more insertions in a year.

MECHANICAL DETAILS :

Printing area	...	$9\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{3}{4}''$
Col. length	...	$9\frac{1}{2}''$
Col. width	...	$2\frac{1}{4}''$
No. of columns per page	...	3
Screen used	...	85 and 100 lines.

[Standard blocks should be sent.]

PRINTED BY C. G. KURUP FOR THE JANATHA PRESS, 66, BELLS ROAD, MADRAS 5
EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY R. NARASIMHAN AND C. RAJAGOPALAN FOR THE
MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD, GOVERNMENT ESTATE, MADRAS-2.